



North Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Scottsdale, Arizona

• Region 9

• San Francisco, CA

May 2008

Second Update on Incidents at Miller Road Treatment Facility

This is a followup to the community fact sheet sent out this past February which explained two failures at the Miller Road Treatment Facility (MRTF) and what EPA was doing about them. In this update we explain the short-term interim actions put in place, long-term remedy evaluations and enforcement actions taken because of the plant failures. A Community Involvement Group meeting will be held on May 21 to discuss what has been going on and our future plans.

Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 2008
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Scottsdale Civic Center Library - Auditorium
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd.
(Enter main door and go downstairs.)



Short-Term Interim Actions

To maintain capture of the TCE plume, the PCs have implemented the following interim actions with the approval of EPA, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Maricopa County:

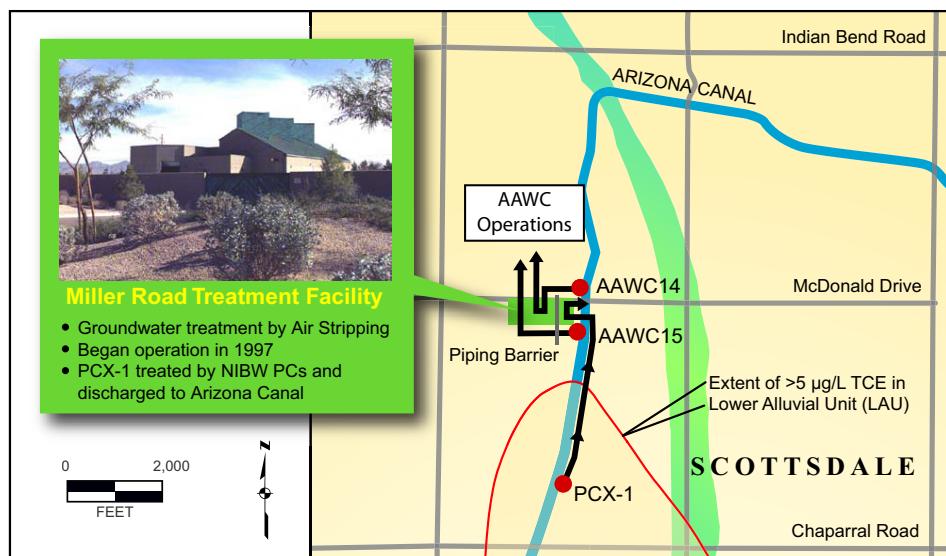
- The NIBW extraction well, PCX-1, which has the highest concentrations of TCE (approximately 70 parts per billion), is being treated at the MRTF and discharged to the Arizona Canal under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Water from PCX-1 is no longer being discharged to the AAWC distribution system;
- The PCs have installed a physical barrier called an “air gap” at the MRTF which separates PCX-1 from Paradise Valley drinking water wells (AAWC-14 and AAWC-15, which contain levels of TCE at or below the Maximum Contaminant Level of 5 parts per billion);
- The PCs have hired a new operator who will be present 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to oversee operation of the PCX-1 system at the MRTF;
- The PCs have installed a new control and alarm system;
- Samples are being collected daily from the PCX-1 effluent (treated water leaving the plant), with 24-hour laboratory turnaround;
- Sampling results are provided to the regulatory agencies and the Salt River Project daily;
- All equipment and controls are now inspected a minimum of three times daily.

Brief Summary of What Happened

The MRTF removes trichloroethylene (TCE) related to the North Indian Bend Wash (NIBW) Superfund site from groundwater wells located in the northern section of the deep groundwater plume. Treated water from the MRTF would then enter the Arizona American Water Company's (AAWC) drinking water distribution system. AAWC operated the MRTF through an arrangement with the NIBW Participating Companies (PCs). Two failures occurred in the treatment process, one in October 2007 and another more serious incident in January 2008.

Incident Investigation

EPA ordered the PCs to fully investigate both incidents and evaluate a full range of options to address the problems. A first-step analysis and work plan by the PCs was turned in to EPA on February 22, 2008. EPA concurred with the PCs' plan to hire an independent environmental firm to evaluate the system, determine the causes of the failures and recommend mitigation measures for the MRTF. This expanded investigation and engineering evaluation was delivered to EPA in April, and we will make this report available to the public.



Long-Term Remedy Evaluation

As stated above, a work plan was submitted to EPA by the PCs on February 22 outlining their strategy for evaluating long-term remedial options. The PCs will submit an evaluation of long-term treatment and end-use options in late summer or early fall 2008. EPA will review the report and determine the next steps.

Fines and Penalties

ADEQ has issued a Consent Order to AAWC with fines under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The fines AAWC paid to ADEQ totaled \$69,000. EPA is in the process of settling the penalties with the PCs under the NIBW Consent Decree.

Information Repository

The Administrative Record and other documents related to the NIBW site can be found at:

Scottsdale Civic Center Library
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd. (Southwest Room)
(480) 312-2320

Mon-Thurs 9 am to 9 pm
Fri, Sat 10 am to 6 pm
Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm



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For More Information

Jamey Watt
Remedial Project Manager
SFD-8-2
(415) 972-3175
watt.jamey@epa.gov

Vicki Rosen
Community Involvement Coordinator
SFD-3
(415) 972-3244
rosen.vicki@epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Both Jamey and Vicki can be reached toll-free at (800) 231-3075. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

EPA website: www.epa.gov/region09/northindianbendwash



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United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Vicki Rosen (NIBW 5/08)

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